

# The Big Dipper



Lev Tolstoy

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(A legend, from the English magazine "Thick Herald of Peace".)

Long, long ago on earth, great drought has happened: all rivers, streams, wells dried out, and trees, shrubs and herbs withered, and people and animals were dying of thirst. Once night, a little girl came out of her house with a small dipper to find some water for her sick mother. This girl didn't find water anywhere, and, out of fatigue, laid on a grass field and fell asleep. When she woke up and touched the dipper, she almost spilled water out of it. It was full of clean, fresh water. The girl got excited and wanted to drink, but then she thought: it won't be enough for her mother and she ran with the dipper back home. She was in such a hurry that she didn't notice a little dog under her feet, stumbled upon it and dropped the small dipper. Little dog squealed pitifully. The girl looked at the small dipper. She thought that she spilled it, but no, it stood straight on its bottom, and the water was still intact in it. Girl poured some water in her hand, and the little dog licked it all and got happy. Then girl again took her little dipper, which became silver from wooden. The girl brought the little dipper home and handed it to her mother. The mother said: "I am going to die anyway, you better drink yourself, and gave the small dipper back to the girl. And at the same time, the silver dipper became the golden one. Then the girl could not hesitate anymore and just wanted to sip, when suddenly a stranger came in through the door and asked to drink. The girl swallowed her saliva and brought the small dipper to the stranger. And suddenly, on the small dipper, seven huge diamonds popped out, and a large stream of clean, fresh water, ran out of it. And the seven diamonds began to ascend higher and higher, and rose up to the sky and became the Big Dipper.